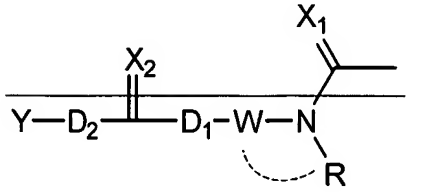
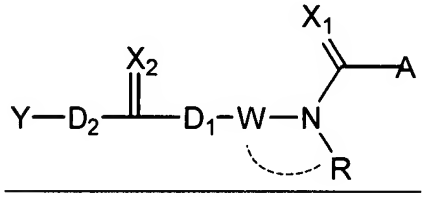
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A prodrug compound ~~having, as a modification group to be eliminated from the prodrug, a group~~ represented by ~~the formula~~formula (I):





(I)

wherein

A is a group remaining from elimination of hydrogen from cimetidine,

X_1 and X_2

are each an oxygen atom ~~or a sulfur atom~~,

W is an ethylene group, ~~a chain divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s) or a divalent group represented by the formula:~~

~~$-W_1-Z-W_2-$~~

~~wherein W_1 and W_2 are each a chain divalent hydrocarbon group or a bond, Z is a divalent hydrocarbon ring group optionally having substituent(s), a divalent heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), an oxygen atom, SO_n wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, or >N-E wherein E is a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a lower alkanoyl group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, an~~

~~aralkyloxycarbonyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a lower alkylsulfinyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl group, a di-lower alkylsulfamoyl group, an arylsulfamoyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an arylcarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group optionally having substituent(s), and when Z is an oxygen atom, SO_n or >N-E, W_1 and W_2 are each a chain divalent hydrocarbon group,~~

R is a C_{1-6}alkyl group, ~~hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s) or a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), and~~

~~R and W~~

~~may be bonded to each other when R is not a hydrogen atom,~~

D_1 ~~and D_2~~

is ~~are each a bond,~~ an oxygen atom, ~~a sulfur atom or >NR_1 wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), except for when both D_1 and D_2 are bonds, and~~

D_2 is a bond or an oxygen atom, and

Y is a C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s) or a saturated heterocyclic group optionally having substituents(s) which contains, as ring-constituting atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from oxygen atom, nitrogen atom and sulfur atom,

or a salt thereof~~substituent(s)~~.

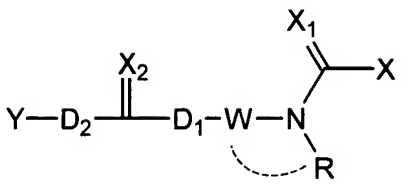
2-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~(1)~~ A production method of the compound of ~~claim 2,~~claim 1, which comprises reacting a pharmaceutical compound having an eliminatable proton (H) represented by the formula (III):

H-A (III)

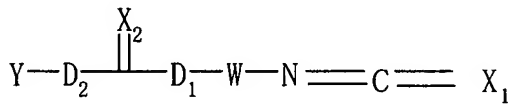
wherein A is a group remaining from elimination of hydrogen from cimetidine,

or a salt thereof with a compound represented by the formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein X is a leaving group, and X_1, X_2, W, R, D_1, D_2 and Y ~~other symbols~~ are as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, or a compound of the formula (V):



(V)

wherein X_1, X_2, W, R, D_1, D_2 and Y are ~~each symbol is~~ as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof.

17-19. (Cancelled)